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#### Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

#### 1 to 9. (previously withdrawn)

- 10. (currently amended) A rod doctor suitable for metering an amount of a coating mix applied to a surface of a moving web of board or paper, or to an applicator roll surface of a film-transfer coater, and for leveling the applied coat, comprising:
  - a support frame having a cradle formed therein; and
- a rod positioned in the cradle of said support so as to be capable of rotating therein, a surface of the cradle on which said rod rotates being covered by a having a coating surface layer of a material which improves wear resistance and sliding friction properties of the cradle and said rod.
- 11. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 10, wherein a surface of the rod is covered by a has a coating surface layer of a material which improves wear resistance and sliding friction properties of said rod.
- 12. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 10, wherein the surface layer has a thickness of from 1 nm to 90  $\mu$  m.
- 13. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 11, wherein the surface layers have a thickness of from 1 nm to 90  $\mu$  m.
- 14. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 10, wherein the surface layer is comprised of a silicon-molybdenum alloy.
- 15. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 11, wherein the surface layers are comprised of a silicon-molybdenum alloy.
- 16. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 12, wherein the surface layer is comprised of a silicon-molybdenum alloy.

- 17. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 13, wherein the surface layers are comprised of a silicon-molybdenum alloy.
- 18. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 10, wherein the surface layer is comprised of diamond.
- 19. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 11, wherein the surface layers are comprised of diamond.
- 20. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 12, wherein the surface layer is comprised of diamond.
- 21. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 13, wherein the surface layers are comprised of diamond.
- 22. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 10, wherein the surface layer is comprised of chromium.
- 23. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 11, wherein the surface layers are comprised of chromium.
- 24. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 12, wherein the surface layer is comprised of chromium.
- 25. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 13, wherein the surface layers are comprised of chromium.
- 26. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 10, wherein the surface layer is comprised of a chromium-teflon composition.

- 27. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 11, wherein the surface layers are comprised of a chromium-tesson composition.
- 28. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 12, wherein the surface layer is comprised of a chromium-teflon composition.
- 29. (previously added) The rod doctor of claim 13, wherein the surface layers are comprised of a chromium-tellon composition.
- 30. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 10, wherein the surface layer is was applied using a vacuum deposition technique.
- 31. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 11, wherein the surface layers are were applied using a vacuum deposition technique.
- 32. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 12, wherein the surface layer is was applied using a vacuum deposition technique.
- 33. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 13, wherein the surface layers are were applied using a vacuum deposition technique.
- 34. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 14, wherein the surface layer is was applied using a vacuum deposition technique.
- 35. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 15, wherein the surface layers are were applied using a vacuum deposition technique.
- 36. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 18, wherein the surface layer is was applied using a vacuum deposition technique.

- 37. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 19, wherein the surface layers are were applied using a vacuum deposition technique.
- 38. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 22, wherein the surface layer is was applied using a vacuum deposition technique.
- 39. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 23, wherein the surface layers are were applied using a vacuum deposition technique.
- 40. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 26, wherein the surface layer is was applied using a vacuum deposition technique.
- 41. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 27, wherein the surface layers are were applied using a vacuum deposition technique.
- 42. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 10, wherein the surface layer is was applied using a thermal spraying technique.
- 43. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 11, wherein the surface layers are were applied using a thermal spraying technique.
- 44. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 12, wherein the surface layer is was applied using a thermal spraying technique.
- 45. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 13, wherein the surface layers are were applied using a thermal spraying technique.
- 46. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 14, wherein the surface layer is was applied using a thermal spraying technique.

- 47. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 15, wherein the surface layers are were applied using a thermal spraying technique.
- 48. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 18, wherein the surface layer is was applied using a thermal spraying technique.
- 49. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 19, wherein the surface layers are were applied using a thermal spraying technique.
- 50. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 22, wherein the surface layer is was applied using a thermal spraying technique.
- 51. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 23, wherein the surface layers are were applied using a thermal spraying technique.
- 52. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 26, wherein the surface layer is was applied using a thermal spraying technique.
- 53. (currently amended) The rod doctor of claim 27, wherein the surface layers are were applied using a thermal spraying technique.
- 54. (new) A rod doctor suitable for metering an amount of a coating mix applied to a surface of a moving web of board or paper, or to an applicator roll surface of a film-transfer coater, and for leveling the applied coat, comprising:
  - a support frame having a cradle formed therein;
- a rod positioned in the cradle of said support so as to be capable of rotating therein, a surface of the cradle on which said rod rotates being covered by a surface layer of a material which improves wear resistance and sliding friction properties of the cradle and said rod , the surface layer being comprised of a silicon-molybdenum alloy.

- 55. (new) The rod doctor of claim 54, wherein a surface of the rod is covered by a surface layer of a material which improves wear resistance and sliding friction properties of said rod.
- 56. (new) The rod doctor of claim 54, wherein the surface layer has a thickness of from 1 nm to 90  $\mu$  m.
- 57. (new) The rod doctor of claim 55, wherein the surface layers have a thickness of from 1 nm to 90  $\mu$  m.
- 58. (new) The rod doctor of claim 55, wherein at least one of the surface layers was applied using a vacuum deposition technique.
- 59 (new) The rod doctor of claim 55, wherein at least one of the surface layers was applied using a thermal spraying technique.
- 60. (new) A rod doctor suitable for metering an amount of a coating mix applied to a surface of a moving web of board or paper, or to an applicator roll surface of a film-transfer coater, and for leveling the applied coat, comprising:

a support frame having a cradle formed therein;

- a rod positioned in the cradle of said support so as to be capable of rotating therein, a surface of the cradle on which said rod rotates being covered by a surface layer of a material which improves wear resistance and sliding friction properties of the cradle and said rod, wherein the surface layer is comprised of diamond.
- 61. (new) The rod doctor of claim 60, wherein a surface of the rod is covered by a surface layer of a material which improves wear resistance and sliding friction properties of said rod.
- 62. (new) The rod doctor of claim 60, wherein the surface layer has a thickness of from 1 nm to 90  $\mu$  m.

- 63. (new) The rod doctor of claim 61, wherein the surface layers have a thickness of from 1 nm to 90  $\mu$  m.
- 64. (new) The rod doctor of claim 61, wherein at least one of the surface layers was applied using a vacuum deposition technique.
- 65. (new) The rod doctor of claim 61, wherein at least one of the surface layers was applied using a thermal spraying technique.